



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Davidson

OIF

Armored Humvee saves N. M. Airmen

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Staff Sgt. Michael Klinkert (right) and Airman 1st Class Christopher Coble were driving this heavily armored Humvee at about 8 p.m. Jan. 5 when they entered an unmarked minefield here. Explosions rocked the vehicle and they were stranded for about two hours until a mine-clearing vehicle was sent in. Sergeant Klinkert and Airman Coble are security forces specialists assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group here. Both are deployed from Holloman AFB, N.M.

United Kingdom requires entry clearance, fee

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFPN)—Immigration regulations enacted by the United Kingdom require people visiting for more than six months to obtain entry clearance before travel.

These rules apply to military family members, civilian personnel, contractors and their families. Active-duty military members on orders are exempt.

A “grace period” has been established until Jan. 13. People without entry clearances will be denied entry after Jan. 13.

Military people with orders to the United Kingdom must ensure their family members obtain no-fee passports, since they are required to be submitted to the British consulate along with the applications for entry clearance, said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Officials said processing an entry clearance is expected to take less than a week for “routine” applications, but may take as long as 45 days.

A fee is also required for each family member requiring an entry clearance. The fee is approximately \$125 at the current exchange rate, payable in local cur-

rency, plus a \$16 fee for mailing costs.

People should contact the local British consulate visa section for the exact fee.

Airmen may file for reimbursement of the fees on their travel voucher when they arrive at their new permanent-duty station.

Civilian employees must have a transportation agreement to make a claim for reimbursement.

Within the United States, a single British consulate has been designated as the main processing center for applications for each section of the country. Military members with orders to the United Kingdom should consult the Military Personnel Flight Outbound Assignments section, 846-5660 or the Customer Service section, 846-5459 before submitting applications to the consulate within their region.

Central United States (N.M.)

Chicago Consulate
The Wrigley Building
400 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1380
Chicago, IL 60611
312-970-3854

East of the Mississippi River

British Consulate
Attn: Sarah Granville-White/
Yvonne Foley
845 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
212-745-0200

West of the Rocky Mountains

British Consulate
Attn: Francesca Dooley/Des Brewer
11766 Wilshire Boulevard,
Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90025-6538
310-481-2900

More information on British consulates in the United States may be found online at www.britainusa.com/. Information on British consulates worldwide may be found at www.ukvisas.gov.uk. Select “Contact Us,” and then “UK Overseas Missions” to find the British consulate for a specific country.



WASHINGTON—The Air Force Uniform Board has introduced embroidering the Air Force logo on the lightweight blue jacket as an optional item. The addition undergoes a wear-testing period at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Airmen can have the addition added to their jackets at any time by visiting an embroidery shop.

New vice commander brings experience to post

BY 2ND LT. TRACY PAGE

Air Force Materiel Command
Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS)—Air Force Materiel Command's new vice commander brought more than two decades of acquisition-related experience with him when he joined the headquarters team Dec. 8.

Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds has spent 25 of his 32 years in the Air Force in positions ranging from B-1 test pilot to B-2 Systems Program Office director to Program Executive Officer for Airlift and Trainers to commanding the Air Force Flight Test Center. He takes over AFMC's second-highest position after seeing "the business" from all aspects, including the past two and one-half years as Aeronautical Systems Center commander here.

"I've seen the changes that the command has faced and I've seen how the command has responded," Reynolds said. "I've also seen three different commanders and their approach to the AFMC mission. All that experience is absolutely invaluable in shaping what I think my role as vice commander will be and what I think AFMC needs to be today and become tomorrow."

Those needs, according to Reynolds, are to deliver to America's airmen the systems needed to carry out the Air Force's Distinctive Capabilities—air and space superiority, information superiority, global attack, precision engagement, rapid global mobility and agile combat support.

"It means delivering the tools of aerospace combat power - the sole reason our Air Force exists," he said. "Without AFMC's contribution to that, those distinctive capabilities will soon be hollow promises."

Reynolds believes his acquisition experience and the operational experience from Gen. Greg Martin, AFMC commander, will meld into a perfect combination for continued AFMC success.

"General Martin has a very strong



Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, Air Force Materiel Command vice commander.

operational background with some very valid and deep experience in acquisition," Reynolds said. "So I think, in some ways, I do complement his experience. More so, I think the operational experience he brings to AFMC is exactly what we need."

But regardless of leadership's experience or education, true success lies with each individual in the command. This, according to Reynolds, makes people the command's, and the Air Force's, most precious resource.

"I look back across my entire career, everything that I've done, all the airplanes I've flown, all the great experiences I've had, the places I've been and all the great technology I've worked with - I don't see any of that, I see the people," Reynolds said. "I have a deep and abiding belief that people are our only resource. Other major commands have very important capital equipment, but AFMC's true resource is its people—their professionalism, courage, creativity and willingness to sacrifice and to do a tough mission day in and day out."

But as AFMC stares at the possibility of more than half of its civilian work force being eligible to retire in the next

half decade or so, the people resource is growing harder and harder to hold on to. With that in mind, Reynolds said recruiting and retention are critical to AFMC's success.

"We need to provide a great place to live and work," he said. "This means a lot of things like good leadership, always building a spirit of teamwork and

taking care of people. It means investing in quality of life and quality of work initiatives when and where we can. It means believing in living up to the ideal that organizational success begins and ends with people."

He also said the command's people need to continue to reinforce the concept of service, the Air Force core values and their meaning and the real importance of national defense.

"We need to take every opportunity to tell the Air Force story, its rich history, proud heritage and tremendous importance of the things we're doing today as well as the intriguing things we'll be doing in the future. This includes reinforcing our vision and goals, up and down the organization, as well as continuing to honor our traditions and ceremonies."

While Reynolds said he's motivated to succeed in his new job, he also tries to keep his life and its priorities in context.

"I'm someone who has tried to be a better servant of the Lord, better husband and father and someone who is working hard to be a good warrior airman," he said. "I'll be the best vice commander I can and together we'll meet success head on."

Base in the green for deployment

In the late 1990's, the Air Force Population Health Support Division fielded a system called Preventive Health Assessment/Individual Medical Readiness (PIMR) database.

This system is a tool designed to track the deployability of an active duty Air Force member.

PIMR monitors five medical readiness criteria: immunization, lab, dental, Preventive Health Assessment/health records review, and profile status on a daily basis. If only one criterion is not current or complete, the individual is not counted as current.

Achieving a rating of "green" (75 percent or above currency rate) is a base-wide effort—75 percent of personnel must have all five monitored areas current.

Kirtland AFB has made tremendous strides in individual medical readiness. Thanks to this commitment, TEAM KIRTLAND has gone from "red" to "green" in PIMR and is in the upper half of all Air Force Materiel Command bases in personnel medically ready to deploy.